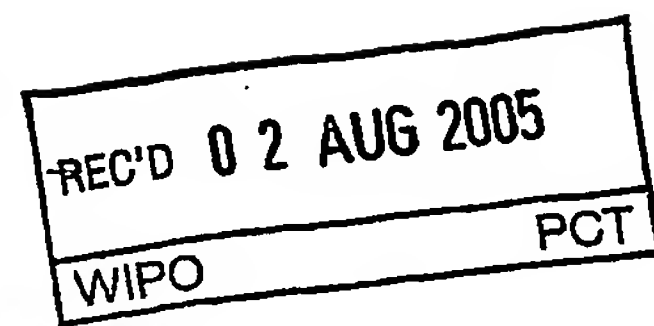


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

4/8

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000204

International filing date (day/month/year)
20.01.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
E06B1/60

Applicant
EAGLE, Timothy, Olof

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basls of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and Industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Verdonck, B

Telephone No. +31 70 340-2110



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000204

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000204

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	13,14,17
	No: Claims	1-12,15-16,18-21
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : EP 0 719 953 A

D2 : US 6 159 575 A

D3 : US 5 624 724 A

D4 : EP 0 844 344 A

D5 : US 5 953 862 A

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):
a shim (1) which includes a tapered body member (3) provided with a plurality of wedge elements and at least one retaining member (11,16) between said wedge elements, which retaining member is able to be engaged in a friction fit manner by a screw, nail or the like to retain the shim in a working position.

2.2 Also document D2 discloses all the features of claim 1 (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

a shim (1) which includes a tapered body member (3) provided with a plurality of wedge elements and at least one retaining member (11,16) between said wedge elements, which retaining member is able to be engaged in a friction fit manner by a screw, nail or the like to retain the shim in a working position.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 19

3.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 19 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D5 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):
a shim for building applications including one, two or more (see abstract and col.3, lines 7-13) wedge elements arranged substantially coplanar to one another and

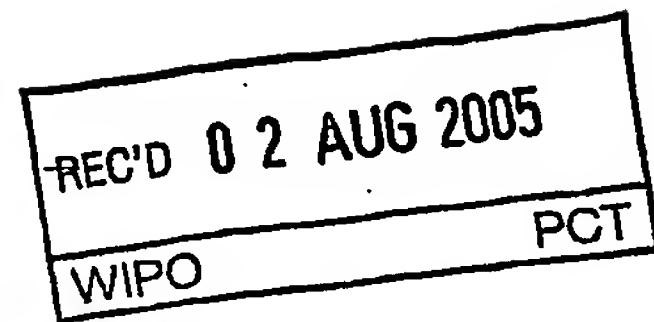
a connecting element (86) at a thick end of the shim, which connecting element enables two or more wedge elements to be used as a unitary shim, the wedge elements being detachable from the connecting element so as to be usable individually (col.3, lines 7-13).

4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT), as these features are either known from D1 or D2, or are obvious in view of documents D3 or D4.

- 5 If claim 19 were to be reformulated as dependent on claim 1, with the additional feature of the break lines (34,36) at the thick end of the wedge elements for detachment from the connecting element, then such a claim would fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT.

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See paragraph 2 below

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000204

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000204

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

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Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
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2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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